

Medicare Rx Update: November 15, 2006

Enrollment is now open... encourage beneficiaries to enroll before December 8th

The open enrollment period for Medicare Part D coverage in 2007 began today and ends on December 31. During this period, all eligible beneficiaries may choose to enroll for the first time, choose a new plan, or do nothing at all and stay in the plan they already have. Many of the 2007 Plan formularies are more robust and over 80% of beneficiaries have a choice of a plan that costs less than the plan they have in 2006. CMS continues to recommend that people who are enrolling in a new plan should do so by December 8 to assure their enrollment data is available in pharmacy systems on January 1...and as always, to the extent that a pharmacist can assist a beneficiary in an objective assessment of the beneficiary's needs and potential plan options, we encourage pharmacists to engage in discussions with beneficiaries when patients seek information or advice regarding their Medicare options.

Part D Reference Guide for Pharmacists is available now...

CMS has created a Part D reference guide to policies that are of particular interest to pharmacists, including plan contact lists, Parts B&D information, guidance documents and more. The document is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/pharmacy for download. Please reply to this e-mail address with suggestions and comments; we will be updating the document periodically.

Did you know...?

As of December 1, the E1 request will require the first four letters of the last name when you search on the Cardholder ID (e.g., SSN or Medicare ID). CMS will provide training on new E1 functionality and coordination of benefits (COB) issues as part of a **Special Open Door Forum on December 4, 2006 at 2 PM EST**. We will be sending call information and background documents in the coming days. Please save the date.

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